



## Notes

If you have any doubts about the information required, or wish to discuss the case, please contact VicRoads Medical Review on 9854 2407 during business hours.

For any queries regarding a marine licence, please contact Transport Safety Victoria on 1800 223 022.

The visual criteria below have been developed by the Royal Australian College of Ophthalmologists, the Victorian College of Optometry and the Optometrists Association of Australia and published in National Fitness to Drive handbooks. These national standards are complied with by all Australian licensing jurisdictions including VicRoads.

Section 27 of the *Road Safety Act 1986* and the *Marine Safety Act 2010* provide legal indemnity to anyone who provides an opinion on visual status to VicRoads.

If VicRoads cancels, suspends or refuses to issue a licence or permit, the person involved has a right to obtain a second opinion and submit this to VicRoads for further consideration, or to appeal against VicRoads' decision to a Magistrates' Court.

All applicants for bus and truck licences must meet the criteria for cars and motorcycles as well as the criteria for buses and trucks.

## Visual criteria to be met to hold a licence or permit

Condition	Cars, motorcycles, light trucks* and vessels Licence classifications = C, R, LR*, B1 and B2	Buses and trucks* Licence classifications = MR, HR, HC, MC
<b>Acuity</b> <i>This is the only criteria for marine licences</i>	Binocular acuity must be better than 6/12. Visual acuity must be measured with both eyes open. Aided or unaided vision is acceptable. More than one error on the 6/12 line is a fail. Corrective lenses must be made a condition on the licence if this standard is reached only when using corrective lenses.	Corrected or uncorrected visual acuity must be better than 6/9 in the best eye and at least 6/18 in the worst eye. More than two errors on the 6/9 line is a fail. Refer to <i>Assessing Fitness To Drive for Commercial and Private Vehicle Drivers 2012</i> when addressing visual criteria regarding conditional licences.  Passenger vehicles (buses and taxis) are not dealt with by VicRoads. Legislation requires a standard of 6/12 minimum in each eye. Contact the Victorian Taxi Directorate for information.
<b>Aphakia</b>	May drive if the acuity criteria are met.	May drive if the acuity criteria are met.
<b>Cataracts</b>	Must meet all visual criteria. Two yearly review.	The extent and location of the cataract, together with any glare disability need to be considered. At minimum, acuity criteria must be met.
<b>Colour vision</b>	There have been significant improvements in road engineering with respect to red lights, the hue and intensity being enhanced to help compensate for persons with red deficiency. Therefore there is no longer a criteria regarding colour blindness and red-deficient persons (protans and protanomals) may obtain all classes of licence. Doctors should advise patients who are found to be red-deficient that they may be less aware of detecting red lights and hence should pay particular attention to traffic lights, rear braking lights and other sources of red light relevant to driving.	There have been significant improvements in road engineering with respect to red lights, the hue and intensity being enhanced to help compensate for persons with red deficiency. Therefore there is no longer a criteria regarding colour blindness and red-deficient persons (protans and protanomals) may obtain all classes of licence. Doctors should advise patients who are found to be red-deficient that they may be less aware of detecting red lights and hence should pay particular attention to traffic lights, rear braking lights and other sources of red light relevant to driving.
<b>Diplopia</b>	A licence will not be issued if diplopia is within the central 20°. May drive if an eye patch is worn and meets the 'loss of vision in one eye' condition, or if diplopia is long standing with adequate compensation.	A licence will not be issued unless present only on extreme lateral gaze (whether persistent or recurrent).
<b>Eye patch</b>	If eye is padded for any reason (due to acute short term problems), the patient should not drive until the pad is removed and vision has returned.	If eye is padded for any reason (due to acute short term problems), the patient should not drive until the pad is removed and vision has returned.
<b>Glaucoma</b>	May drive if visual acuity and visual field criteria are met. Will be subject to annual review of vision and visual fields.	Criteria for visual fields must be met. If considered suitable, a licence may be considered subject to annual review of visual fields.
<b>Loss of vision in one eye</b>	Should not drive for three months after loss of binocular vision. May then drive if vision in good eye meets visual acuity standards.	May drive if the acuity criteria are met. Refer to <i>Assessing Fitness To Drive for Commercial and Private Vehicle Drivers 2012</i> when addressing visual criteria regarding conditional licences.
<b>Nystagmus</b>	Should not drive if binocular visual acuity is worse than 6/12.	Visual acuity criteria must be met.
<b>Poor night vision</b>	A conditional licence may be issued for daylight driving.	A conditional licence may be issued for daylight driving.
<b>Post surgery</b>	Should not drive unless cleared by an ophthalmologist.	Should not drive for four weeks following surgery to the eye that will alter visual acuity unless cleared by an ophthalmologist.
<b>Visual field defects</b>	Should not drive if an homonymous hemianopia is present or if the extent of the visual field is less than 110 degrees along the horizontal meridian. Visual field maps should be provided to VicRoads. Quadrantanopias and scotomas may be considered.	Drivers with a visual field loss, who have a residual field of 140 degrees or more along the horizontal meridian may be considered for a conditional licence. Applicants with visual field loss must provide documentary evidence of a residual visual field that meets the criterion specified in section 10.3 of <i>Assessing Fitness To Drive for Commercial and Private Vehicle Drivers 2012</i> available at <a href="http://austroads.com.au">austroads.com.au</a>

\*The Light Rigid (LR) licence category includes vehicles up to 8 tonnes GVM as well as small passenger buses. VicRoads will issue a LR category restricted to allow the operation of light trucks and exclude passenger buses.